

Remarks

Claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 18 and 19 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1-2, 5-10, 12, 13, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kageyu, et al. (U.S. 5,745,167) patent in view of the Davis (U.S. 5,936,666) patent.

Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 18 and 19, and with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 18 and 19 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' independent claim 1 has now been amended to recite a control restriction device for restricting control of another instrument, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about the control right acquired by the control right acquisition device. Applicants' independent claims 6, 8, 12, 18 and 19 have been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicants' independent claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 18 and 19, and their respective dependent claims, are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Examiner has cited FIGS. 19 and 20 and column 13, line 50 through column 14, line 63 of the Kageyu, et al. patent as disclosing "a control restriction device for restricting control of an instrument (camera), of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about the control right acquired by the control right acquisition device."

More particularly, FIG. 19 of the Kageyu, et al. patent discloses a step sequence for acquiring a right of control of a particular camera, and FIG. 20 shows an operating sequence

in which control over of a particular camera by a requesting terminal computer is restricted where another terminal computer of higher priority has already acquired the right of control of the same camera. FIG. 20; Col. 13, line 55 -- Col. 14, line 53. In other words, in the Kageyu, et al. patent restricting control is exercised with respect to the same video camera for which a control right has already been acquired by another terminal computer. Accordingly, there is nothing taught or suggested in the Kageyu, et al. patent of acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary instrument and restricting control of another instrument of which control right has not been acquired. Moreover, the Davis patent fails to add anything to the Kageyu, et al. patent to change this conclusion.

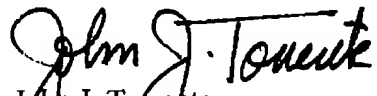
Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 18 and 19, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such feature, thus patentably distinguish over the Kageyu, et al. patent taken in view of the Davis patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record and it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' counsel at (212) 682-9640.

Dated: April 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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